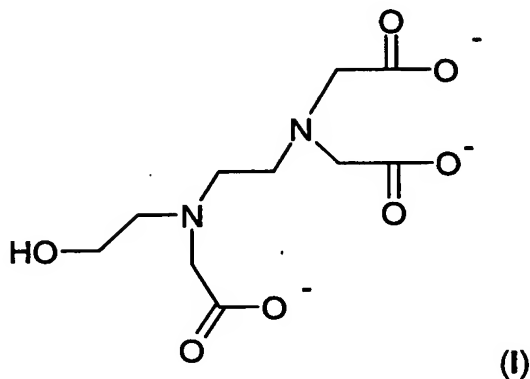


Claims

1. An aqueous solution comprising a sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I:



5 wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$.

2. The aqueous solution according to claim 1 comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$.

10

3. A container comprising at least 0.5kg of an aqueous solution according to claim 1 or 2.

4. Use of an aqueous solution according to claim 1 or 2 for making an iron-chelate complex.

15

5. A method of preparing an aqueous solution comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$ of the chelating compound of formula I wherein $x = 2.1 - 2.7$, $y = 0.9 - 0.3$, and $x + y = 3$ from the trisodium salt of N-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylenediamine-N,N',N'-triacetic acid ($\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$), comprising the step of electrodialysing at 20°C an aqueous solution containing less than 42 wt% of $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$, or at a different

20

temperature at maximally the concentration whereby the viscosity is the same or lower than the viscosity of the 42wt% Na₃-HEDTA solution at 20°C, using a bipolar and a cation membrane, thereby converting the Na₃-HEDTA solution to the solution of the sodium salt xNa⁺yH⁺ of formula I wherein x = 2.1 – 2.7, y = 0.9 – 0.3, and x + y = 3.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein a caustic electrolyte is used.